# General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 97

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/495)*]

### 59/160. Control of cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[1] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[3] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4]

*Recalling also* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/8 of 15 March 2002 on the control of cannabis in Africa,[5]

*Concerned* that, of all the substances listed in the international drug control treaties, cannabis is by far the most widely and most frequently abused, especially among young people,

*Concerned also* that the abuse of cannabis, especially among young people, often leads to risk-taking behaviour,

*Concerned further* that cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis are on the increase in Africa partly as a result of extreme poverty and the absence of any viable alternative crop and partly because of the profitability of such activity and the high demand for cannabis in other regions of the world,

*Noting with concern* that increased cultivation of cannabis in Africa is extremely dangerous for the ecosystem because it leads to extensive use of fertilizers, overexploitation of the soil and destruction of forests to make room for new cannabis fields, thus accelerating soil erosion,

*Taking note* of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003,[6] in which the Board confirmed that the production of, trafficking in and abuse of cannabis continued to pose a serious problem in various regions of the world,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[2] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 8* and corrigenda (E/2002/28 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, sect. C.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.1.

*Aware* of the importance of programmes promoting alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

*Emphasizing* the primary importance of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking and drug abuse,

1. *Welcomes* the 2003 cannabis survey conducted by Morocco in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be either from general-purpose funds, in accordance with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,[7] or from earmarked funds, to begin a global survey of cannabis, initially with a market survey, before the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the creation or strengthening of national and subregional strategies and plans of action for the eradication of cannabis crops, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be either from general-purpose funds, in accordance with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds, or from earmarked funds;

4. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility and as a sign of their commitment to the fight against illicit drugs, to extend cooperation to affected States, particularly in Africa, in the area of alternative development, including funding for research into crops offering viable alternatives to cannabis, environmental protection and technical assistance;

5. *Encourages* Member States with experience and expertise in the eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development programmes to share their experience and expertise with affected States, particularly in Africa;

6. *Urges* all Member States to encourage appropriate access to international markets for products of alternative development projects in order to support efforts aimed at eliminating the production of narcotic drugs and promoting sustainable development;

7. *Encourages* Member States to apply new strategies and tools to complement existing ones in efforts to combat trafficking in cannabis;

8. *Calls upon* all States to ensure strict compliance with all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[1] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[3] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[4]

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

---

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8* (E/2001/28/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 97

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/495)*]

### 59/161. Providing support to the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to eliminate illicit opium and foster stability and security in the region

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] outlining the interrelated commitments, goals and targets to be achieved on, inter alia, development, peace and security and setting the required framework for international cooperation for achieving those goals,

*Recognizing* that the threat emanating from illicit opium poppy cultivation and production of and trafficking in illicit opium, as addressed at the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003, is a serious challenge to the security and stability of Afghanistan, its neighbouring countries and the region and poses a problem for countries throughout the world,

*Taking note* of *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2003*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

*Recognizing* the strong and continuing commitment made by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan at the institutional, legal and administrative levels to eliminate opium poppy cultivation by 2013,

*Reaffirming* the commitments undertaken by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[2] in which Member States recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility and expressed their conviction that it must be addressed in a multilateral setting,

*Recalling* that the Security Council, on 17 June 2003, called upon the international community to provide assistance to the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and in line with the national drug control strategy,[3]

---

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[3] See S/PRST/2003/7; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2002–31 July 2003*.

*Recalling also* that, in section II of its resolution 58/141 of 22 December 2003, the General Assembly reaffirmed the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[4] and recommended that adequate help be provided to Afghanistan in support of the commitment of the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan to eliminate illicit opium,

*Stressing* the importance and urgency of the implementation of the five action plans adopted by the International Counter-Narcotics Conference on Afghanistan, held in Kabul on 8 and 9 February 2004, which were to form part of the discussion at the international conference entitled "Afghanistan and the International Community: a Partnership for the Future", held in Berlin on 31 March and 1 April 2004, and the conclusion of the Kabul conference that the illicit drug issue is a top priority of all those interested in securing the future of Afghanistan,

*Recalling* that, in the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the ministers and other government representatives participating in the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that adequate help be provided to Afghanistan within the framework of the comprehensive international strategy carried out, inter alia, under the auspices of the United Nations and through other multilateral forums, in support of the commitment of the Transitional Government of Afghanistan to eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and in response to the unique situation of that country, reaffirmed that that should help the provision of alternative livelihoods and the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors within Afghanistan and in neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including the strengthening of "security belts" in the region, and that extensive efforts had to be made to reduce the demand for drugs globally in order to contribute to the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan and, in that context, affirmed that their response to that unique situation would not detract from their commitment and resources devoted to the fight against drugs in other parts of the world,[5]

*Recalling also* that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 2003, pointed out that trade in Afghan opiates generated funds that corrupted institutions, financed terrorism and insurgency and led to destabilization of the region,[6]

*Recalling further* the appeal to the international community made by the International Narcotics Control Board on 12 February 2004 to support fully the Afghan authorities in addressing the drug control situation, in order to meet the requirements of the international drug treaties, including article 14 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[7] and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[8]

---

[4] A/58/124, sect. II.A.

[5] Ibid., para. 22.

[6] See *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.1), para. 203.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[8] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

1. *Welcomes* the bilateral and multilateral support being provided by the international community, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other organizations;

2. *Expresses its support* for the efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in order to counter the threat to the international community posed by the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan and its illicit trade;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance financial and technical support to Afghanistan in order to enable the Government to implement successfully its national drug control strategy and thereby reduce the demand for illicit drugs in Afghanistan and the threat that illicit opium poppy cultivation and illicit opium trade have created to the peace, stability and socio-economic recovery of Afghanistan and to the security of the region and the other parts of the world;

4. *Urges* all stakeholders to accelerate efforts to implement a combined strategy, comprising law enforcement, eradication, interdiction, demand reduction and awareness-building, including alternative livelihoods conceived in a broader development context than currently understood, with a view to creating sustainable livelihoods, independent of illicit opium;

5. *Encourages* the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan to accelerate the implementation of the commitment that it courageously made to the five action plans adopted by the International Counter-Narcotics Conference on Afghanistan, held in Kabul on 8 and 9 February 2004;

6. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen measures to reduce the global demand for illicit drugs, in order to support and contribute to the sustainability of efforts to eliminate illicit opium in Afghanistan;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be either from general-purpose funds, in accordance with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,[9] or from earmarked funds, and encourages concerned Member States, international organizations and financial institutions to routinely mainstream counter-narcotics measures as part of their development cooperation strategies, in coordination with the development objectives of the Government of Afghanistan, so that sustainable alternative livelihoods are created in Afghanistan.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8* (E/2001/28/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 97

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/495)*]

## 59/162. Follow-up on strengthening the systems of control over chemical precursors and preventing their diversion and trafficking

*The General Assembly*,

*Concerned* about the continued diversion and misuse of precursors and the fact that, despite efforts undertaken by all States, including the producing, exporting, importing and transit States, chemical substances are increasingly feeding the manufacture of illicit drugs of natural or synthetic origin, a problem that deserves the utmost attention of all States,

*Recalling* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,[1] in which Member States decided to establish 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or considerably reduce the diversion of precursors,

*Recalling also* the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[2]

*Stressing* the importance of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2003/32 and 2003/35 of 22 July 2003 on training in precursor control, countering money-laundering and drug abuse prevention, and on strengthening the prevention and suppression of illicit drug trafficking,

*Recalling* article 12, paragraphs 1, 9 (*c*) and 10, of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[3]

*Reaffirming* the importance of using all available legal means or measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals from legitimate trade to illicit drug manufacture as an essential component of comprehensive strategies against drug abuse and

[1] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[2] A/58/124, sect. II.A.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

trafficking and of preventing access to chemical precursors by those engaged in or attempting to engage in the processing of illicit drugs,

*Reiterating* the importance of the effective and real-time exchange of information relating to the interdiction, diversion and suspected diversion of precursors, as an essential component of strategies to facilitate comprehensive investigations into cases relating to such diversion, including the identification of the modus operandi and entities involved and the initiation of appropriate legal action,

*Encouraging* Member States to conduct backtracking law enforcement investigations in order to counter organized smuggling networks effectively,

*Also encouraging* Member States to facilitate the exchange of information between the relevant agencies in order to identify the sources of seized precursor chemicals and those responsible for the shipping and diversion of those substances and to identify the sources of pharmaceutical preparations misused for illicit drug manufacture,

*Noting* that links are increasingly being uncovered between the smuggling of drugs and the smuggling of precursor chemicals, including the use of similar modi operandi to conceal consignments in order to avoid detection,

*Welcoming with satisfaction* the results achieved so far under Operation Purple and Operation Topaz and the new initiative called Project Prism, which were launched by the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with Member States, to enhance controls over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants respectively,

*Concerned* that, without additional resources, the International Narcotics Control Board will not be able to carry out its important functions under the above-mentioned operations,

1. *Urges* all Member States to put in place systems and procedures to ensure that the details of any interdiction, seizure, diversion or attempted diversion of precursors are communicated expeditiously to all Governments concerned and the International Narcotics Control Board and, insofar as possible, share relevant information so that methods frequently used for national and international trafficking in chemicals may be identified, pursuant to article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[3]

2. *Reiterates* the importance of applying the know-your-customer principle referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/39 of 22 July 2003, and stresses the necessity of strengthening the use of the mechanism of pre-export notifications, including by providing timely responses, especially through the efficient sharing of information;

3. *Invites* those States which do not have mechanisms to enable the real-time exchange of information under the current international operations to consider establishing a national focal point or central national authority in line with the standard operating procedures of the international operations, through which all information on licit and illicit consignments can be channelled, and invites all Member States to contribute to updating the directory of competent national authorities under the international drug control treaties, with a view to implementing article 12 of the 1988 Convention;

4. *Recommends* that Member States develop or further adapt, where necessary, their regulatory and operational control procedures to counter the diversion of chemical substances into illicit drug production or manufacture, and encourages authorities to initiate or further strengthen coordination and cooperation between all regulatory and enforcement services involved in precursor control;

5. *Invites* Member States and appropriate international and regional bodies to review intelligence on the smuggling of drugs and the smuggling of precursor chemicals, in order to identify common links and to plan appropriate operations to stop such activities;

6. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that stopped diversion attempts receive the same investigative attention that would be afforded to a seizure of the same substance, since such cases could provide valuable intelligence that could prevent diversions elsewhere;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place, where necessary and to the extent possible, to prevent the diversion of preparations containing chemicals listed in tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, pertaining to illicit drug manufacture, in particular those containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;

8. *Encourages* Member States, in order to counter smuggling networks effectively, to conduct backtracking law enforcement investigations and, where appropriate, to identify the source of the seized chemical precursors and those responsible for the consignment and ultimately the diversion;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to investigate the possibility of establishing operational chemical profiling programmes, and invites all States to support, to the extent possible, such programmes;

10. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/20 of 24 July 1995, to monitor international trade so that diversion attempts can be identified, preventing chemical precursors from reaching the illicit market;

11. *Urges* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to follow up all such cases of diversion by facilitating investigations by national authorities and to make its findings available to Governments through its annual report;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources to the International Narcotics Control Board to enable it to continue its work effectively under Operation Purple, Operation Topaz and Project Prism;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within the framework of his biennial reports on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and taking into account the relevant resolutions adopted on the subject since the special session, to include in his report on the control of precursors, starting with his report to be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session, recommendations on how to strengthen the use of the pre-export notification mechanism and ensure timely responses.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

United Nations A/RES/59/163

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 97

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/495)*]

## 59/163. International cooperation against the world drug problem

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] its resolution 58/141 of 22 December 2003 and its other previous resolutions,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and welcoming the continuing determination of Governments to overcome the world drug problem by a full and balanced application of national, regional and international strategies to reduce the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the commitments of Member States in meeting the objectives targeted for 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the twentieth special session,[2] and welcoming the guidelines and elements recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the preparation of subsequent reports on the follow-up to the twentieth special session,[3]

*Emphasizing* the importance of the Action Plan[4] for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[5] which introduces a new global approach balanced between illicit supply and demand reduction, under the principle of shared responsibility, and of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[6] which recognizes the importance of supply reduction as an integral part of a balanced drug control strategy,

---

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution S-20/2, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 8* (E/1999/28/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, resolution 42/11; and ibid., *2001, Supplement No. 8* (E/2001/28/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 44/2.

[4] Resolution 54/132, annex.

[5] Resolution S-20/3, annex.

[6] Resolution S-20/4 E.

*Recognizing* the efforts of all countries, in particular those that produce narcotic drugs for scientific and medical purposes, and of the International Narcotics Control Board in preventing the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and in maintaining production at a level consistent with licit demand, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 [7] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[8]

*Aware* that progress has been uneven in meeting the goals set in the Political Declaration, as also reflected in the biennial reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[9] and recognizing that the drug problem is still a global challenge that constitutes a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humankind, in particular children and young people, and that it undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development, including efforts to reduce poverty, and causes violence and crime, including in urban areas,

*Concerned* by the increase in the abuse of illicit drugs among children, including adolescents, and young people,

*Concerned also* by the challenges posed by links between the spread of HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use,

*Concerned further* by the serious challenges and threats posed by the continuing links between illicit drug trafficking and terrorism and other national and transnational criminal activities, such as trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in arms and trafficking in chemical precursors, and reaffirming that strong and effective international cooperation is needed to counter these threats,

*Concerned* about policies and activities in favour of the legalization of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that are not in accordance with the international drug control treaties and that might jeopardize the international drug control regime,

*Concerned also* by the increase in the diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs,

*Acknowledging* that international cooperation in countering drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking has shown that positive results can be achieved through sustained and collective efforts, and expressing its appreciation for the initiatives in this regard,

## I

## Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in countering the world drug problem

1. *Reaffirms* that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, requires an integrated and balanced approach, and must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[9] E/CN.7/2001/2 and Add.1–3, E/CN.7/2001/16 and E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add.1–6.

principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

2. *Urges* all States to ratify or accede to, and States parties to implement all the provisions of, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[10] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[8] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[11]

3. *Invites* all States, as a matter of priority, to sign, ratify or accede to, and States parties to implement, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[12] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[13] in order to counter comprehensively the transnational criminal activities that are related to illicit drug trafficking;

## II

## International cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session

1. *Reaffirms* the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[14] which emphasizes that the world drug problem must be addressed in multilateral, regional, bilateral and national settings and that, in order to succeed, action to counter it has to involve all Member States, that action must be supported by strong international and development cooperation and must be further included in national development priorities, and that it requires a balance between supply reduction and demand reduction, as well as a comprehensive strategy that combines alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, eradication, interdiction, law enforcement, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as education;

2. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen their efforts in the fight against the world drug problem, in order to achieve the objectives targeted for 2008 in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the twentieth special session;[2]

3. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to continue their close cooperation with Governments in promoting and implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session and the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

4. *Stresses* that data collection, analysis and evaluation of the results of ongoing national and international policies are essential tools for further developing sound, evidence-based drug control strategies;

---

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[11] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[12] Resolution 55/25, annexes I–III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[13] Resolution 58/4, annex.

[14] A/58/124, sect. II.A.

**Demand reduction**

5. *Urges* all Member States to implement the Action Plan[4] for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[5] and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs in their population, in particular among children and young people;

6. *Urges* States, in order to achieve a significant and measurable reduction of drug abuse by 2008:

(*a*) To further implement comprehensive demand reduction policies and programmes, including research, covering all the drugs under international control, in order to raise public awareness of the drug problem, paying special attention to prevention and education and providing, especially to young people and others at risk, information on developing life skills, making healthy choices and engaging in drug-free activities;

(*b*) To further develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, including risk reduction activities, that are in line with sound medical practice and the international drug control treaties and that reduce the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse, and to provide a wide range of comprehensive services for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers, with appropriate resources being devoted to such services, since social exclusion constitutes an important risk factor for drug abuse;

(*c*) To enhance early intervention programmes that dissuade children and young people from using illicit drugs, including polydrug use and the recreational use of substances such as cannabis and synthetic drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants, and to encourage the active participation of the younger generation in campaigns against drug abuse;

(*d*) To provide a comprehensive range of services for preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases associated with drug abuse, including education, counselling and drug abuse treatment, and in particular to assist developing countries in their efforts to deal with these issues;

**Illicit synthetic drugs**

7. *Urges* States to renew their efforts, at the national, regional and international levels, to implement the comprehensive measures covered in the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors,[15] to make special efforts to counter the abuse and recreational use of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially by young people, and to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of such abuse;

**Control of substances**

8. *Encourages* States to establish or strengthen mechanisms and procedures to ensure strict control of substances that are listed in the international drug treaties and are used to manufacture illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin, and to support international operations aimed at preventing their diversion, including through coordination and cooperation between regulatory and enforcement services involved in their control;

---

[15] See resolution S-20/4 A.

**Control of precursors**

9. *Encourages* States to establish or strengthen mechanisms and procedures to ensure strict control of chemical precursors used to manufacture illicit drugs, to support international operations aimed at preventing the diversion of chemical precursors, including through coordination and cooperation between regulatory and enforcement services involved in precursor control, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, and to counter smuggling networks effectively, inter alia, by conducting backtracking law enforcement investigations;

**Judicial cooperation**

10. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities at all levels in order to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking and to share and promote best operational practices in order to interdict illicit drug trafficking, including by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms, providing technical assistance and establishing effective methods for cooperation, in particular in the areas of air, maritime, port and border control and in the implementation of extradition treaties;

**Countering money-laundering**

11. *Urges* States to strengthen action, in particular international cooperation and technical assistance aimed at preventing and combating the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and related criminal activities, with the support of the United Nations system, international institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to develop and strengthen comprehensive international regimes to combat money-laundering, and to improve information-sharing among financial institutions and agencies in charge of preventing and detecting the laundering of those proceeds;

12. *Calls upon* States to consider including provisions in their national drug control plans for the establishment of national networks to enhance their respective capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorist acts, and in general to counter all acts of transnational organized crime, and to supplement existing regional and international networks dealing with money-laundering;

**International cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development**

13. *Recognizes* the efforts made by States to implement innovative alternative programmes, inter alia, in reforestation, agriculture and small and medium enterprise, and stresses the importance of the United Nations system and the international community contributing to the economic and social development of the communities that benefit from such programmes;

14. *Calls upon* States, where appropriate:

(*a*) To enhance support, including, where appropriate, through the provision of new and additional financial resources, for alternative development, environmental protection and eradication programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, of opium poppy and of coca bush, in particular national programmes that seek to reduce social marginalization and promote sustainable economic development;

(*b*) To enhance joint strategies, through international and regional cooperation, to strengthen, including by training, education and providing technical assistance, alternative development, eradication and interdiction capacity, with the aim of eliminating illicit crop cultivation and fostering economic and social development;

(*c*) To encourage international cooperation, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in or being relocated to other areas;

(*d*) To provide, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes, which are necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty;

(*e*) To establish or reinforce, where appropriate, national mechanisms to monitor and verify illicit crops;

(*f*) To continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

(*g*) To share their experience, expertise and best practices in the eradication of illicit drug crops and the implementation of alternative development programmes with affected States;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance financial and technical support for Afghanistan in order to enable the Government to implement successfully its national drug control strategy;

## III

## Action by the United Nations system

1. *Emphasizes* that the multidimensional nature of the world drug problem calls for the promotion of integration and coordination of drug control activities throughout the United Nations system, including in the follow-up to major United Nations conferences, as well as in other relevant multilateral institutions and organizations;

2. *Reaffirms its resolve* to continue to strengthen the United Nations machinery for international drug control, in particular the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to enable them to fulfil their mandates, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999 and the measures taken and recommendations adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, aimed at the enhancement of its functioning;

3. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

4. *Notes* that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, including those that will enable it to perform effectively its task within the framework of Operation Purple, Operation Topaz and Project Prism, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assigning adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the Board, in

accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996, emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, inter alia, through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and calls for enhanced cooperation and understanding between Member States and the Board in order to enable it to implement all its mandates under the international drug control conventions;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement its mandate, and requests the Office to continue:

(*a*) To strengthen dialogue with Member States and also to ensure continued improvement in management, so as to contribute to enhanced and sustainable programme delivery and further encourage the Executive Director to maximize the effectiveness of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, inter alia, through the full implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions, in particular the recommendations contained therein;

(*b*) To strengthen cooperation with Member States and with United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies, as well as relevant regional organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to provide, on request, assistance in implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session;

(*c*) To increase its assistance, within the available voluntary resources, to countries that are deploying efforts to reduce illicit crop cultivation by, in particular, adopting alternative development programmes, and to explore new and innovative funding mechanisms;

(*d*) To allocate, while keeping the balance between supply and demand reduction programmes, adequate resources to allow it to fulfil its role in the implementation of the Action Plan[4] for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[5] and support countries, upon their request, to further develop and implement drug demand reduction policies;

(*e*) To develop action-oriented strategies to assist Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session on the follow-up to the Action Plan;

(*f*) To strengthen dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and with international financial institutions so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed of further progress made in this area;

(*g*) To take into account the outcome of the twentieth special session, to include in its report on the illicit traffic in drugs an updated, objective and comprehensive assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means of improving the capacity of States along those routes to address all aspects of the drug problem;

(*h*) To publish the *World Drug Report*, with comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem, and to seek additional extrabudgetary resources for its publication in all the official languages;

(*i*) To provide technical assistance, from available voluntary contributions for that purpose, to those States identified by relevant international bodies as the most affected by the transit of drugs, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support;

(*j*) To provide assistance, at the request of States and respecting fully their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and with the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency, among others, in detecting on time the emergence or relocation of illicit crop cultivation;

6. *Welcomes also* the follow-up, led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to the 2003 Paris Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe (the Paris Pact),[16] and encourages the Office and other relevant international institutions to continue their efforts;

7. *Welcomes further* the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-seventh session, to select the topic "Preventing HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse prevention" as part of the thematic debate of its forty-eighth session, in 2005;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of resources and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,[17] together with international financial institutions and the organizations involved in preventing and suppressing money-laundering and drug trafficking, to facilitate the provision of training and advice through technical cooperation in States, when requested, taking into account, inter alia, the recommendations on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism formulated by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and its regional groups;

9. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities, and recommends that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the Programme to enable it to fulfil its mandates and to work towards securing assured and predictable funding;

10. *Encourages* the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session and the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission;

11. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities, other international organizations and international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[18] and, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting, requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

---

[16] See S/2003/641.

[17] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8* (E/2001/28/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.

[18] A/59/188.

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 98

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/496)*]

### 59/164. Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

*Recalling also* the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, [1] of achieving overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by 2000 and the further actions and initiatives set out in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", [2]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General; [3]

2. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization;

(*b*) The new initiatives and strategies undertaken system-wide and at the Secretariat level to achieve gender balance, including paying special attention to the identification of suitably qualified women candidates, strengthening of recruitment sources for women, development of recruitment strategies in substantive areas, enhancing women's career development, fostering attitudinal changes and introducing family-friendly policies;

(*c*) The increase in the proportion of women in the Professional and higher categories of staff with appointments of one year or more;

---

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] A/59/357.

3. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution has not been met and that overall progress in achieving this goal remains limited;

4. *Notes with concern* the continuing lack of representation of women at higher levels of decision-making, especially at the Under-Secretary-General level;

5. *Notes with particular concern* that gender balance considerations have yet to be effectively integrated throughout the human resources management policies of the United Nations;

6. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at senior and policy-making levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Stresses* the need to address the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, in particular from, and in, developing and least developed countries and countries with economies in transition and other Member States that are unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat;

9. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 58/144 of 22 December 2003, and requests increased and sustained efforts towards its full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that recruitment strategies, promotion and retention policies, career development, justice, anti-harassment and sexual harassment policies, human resources and succession planning, work/family policies, management culture and mechanisms for managerial accountability accelerate the goal of 50/50 gender distribution;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to redouble their efforts to realize significant progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in the very near future;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to effectively contribute to, monitor and facilitate the setting and achievement of gender targets in human resource action plans, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

13. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at senior and policy-making levels, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, by identifying and proposing national recruitment sources in cooperation with national women's machineries and professional organization networks and by encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are underrepresented, such as peacekeeping, peacebuilding and other non-traditional areas;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on all levels of the United Nations system.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

United Nations A/RES/59/165

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 98

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/496)*]

### 59/165. Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of person, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

*Reaffirming also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[5] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] as well as the goals and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[8]

*Recalling* its resolutions 57/179 of 18 December 2002 and 58/147 of 22 December 2003, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/46 of 20 April 2004,[9]

---

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] See resolution 48/104.

[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2004/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

*Recalling also* its resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as well as its resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against children,

*Bearing in mind* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Stressing* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as a criminal offence, punishable by law,

*Stressing also* the need to identify and effectively address the root causes of violence against women, in particular crimes committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms,

*Aware* that inadequate data on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, hinder informed policy analysis, at both the domestic and the international levels, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

*Deeply concerned* that women and girls continue to be victims of these crimes, as described in the relevant sections of the reports of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and noting in this regard successive reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

*Emphasizing* that such crimes are incompatible with all religious and cultural values,

*Emphasizing also* that the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour requires greater efforts and commitment on the part of Governments and the international community, inter alia, through international cooperation efforts, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitude are required,

*Underlining* the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as one of the critical tools to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General on violence against women;[10]

(*b*) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the adoption of amendments to relevant national laws relating to such crimes, the effective implementation of such laws and educational, social and other measures, including national information and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as activities and

[10] A/59/281.

initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of all other forms of violence against women;

(*c*) The efforts, such as projects, undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts;

(*d*) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, grass-roots movements and individuals, in raising awareness of such crimes and their harmful effects;

2. *Expresses its concern* that women continue to be victims of crimes committed in the name of honour, and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish perpetrators;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To fulfil their obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly;[8]

(*b*) To continue to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, administrative and programmatic measures;

(*c*) To investigate promptly and thoroughly, prosecute effectively and document cases of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour and punish the perpetrators;

(*d*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed and condoned in the name of honour, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to be committed by involving, inter alia, community leaders;

(*e*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness about the responsibility of men to promote gender equality and bring about change in attitudes to eliminate gender stereotypes, including, specifically, their role in preventing crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

(*f*) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

(*g*) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, including the provision of training for those responsible for enforcing the law, such as police personnel and judicial and legal personnel, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to complaints of such crimes in an impartial and effective manner and take necessary measures to ensure the protection of actual and potential victims;

(*h*) To continue to support the work of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing this issue and to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(*i*) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them

the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, health-care services, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, psychological health and other relevant areas, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(*j*) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, inter alia, by creating, strengthening or facilitating institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment;

(*k*) To gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes, including information disaggregated by sex and age, and to make any such information available to the Secretariat for use in the in-depth study on violence against women, in accordance with resolution 58/185, and the in-depth study on violence against children, in accordance with resolution 57/190;

(*l*) To include, where appropriate, in their reports to the human rights treaty bodies information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

4. *Invites*:

(*a*) The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, inter alia, through technical assistance and advisory services programmes, to support the efforts of all countries, at their request, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour and at addressing the root causes of such crimes;

(*b*) The relevant human rights treaty bodies, where appropriate, and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to continue to address this issue;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the question of violence against women to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 98

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/496)*]

### 59/166. Trafficking in women and girls

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* all previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, including their reaffirmation of the principles set forth in relevant human rights instruments and declarations, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[1] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[3]

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[4] on 29 September 2003 and of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[5] on 25 December 2003 and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[6] on 28 January 2004,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[7] in particular the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

*Reaffirming* the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in

[1] Resolution 54/263, annex II.
[2] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[3] Resolution 317 (IV), annex.
[4] Resolution 55/25, annex I.
[5] Ibid., annex II.
[6] Ibid., annex III.
[7] See resolution 55/2.

the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[8] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

*Acknowledging* the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[9] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

*Recognizing* the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

*Bearing in mind* that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to provide protection to the victims and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Seriously concerned* that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

*Recognizing* that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their gender as well as their origins,

*Acknowledging* that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

*Recognizing* the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Recognizing also* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

*Recognizing further* that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration should be developed through a child- and gender-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach involving all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

*Concerned* about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

---

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

*Concerned also* at the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

*Convinced* of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

3. *Also welcomes* the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

4. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

5. *Also urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a gender and human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

6. *Further urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[4] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[11] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[12] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[1] as well as the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

---

[10] A/59/185 and Corr.1.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[12] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

7. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives,[13] to address the problem of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, while also ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized for being trafficked, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

9. *Invites* Governments to strengthen international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation;

10. *Also invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

11. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including to address the demand side of the problem and to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue, and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand, including by sex tourists, recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls;

12. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

13. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

---

[13] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council at its meeting held at Tampere, Finland, on 15 and 16 October 1999 (see SN 200/99; available from www.europa.eu.int), and the activities of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

14. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

15. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls and are applied with full respect for the human rights of those victims and are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress, which may include measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;

17. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled to make complaints to the police or other authorities, as appropriate, and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

18. *Also invites* Governments to consider preventing, within the legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence, bearing in mind that they are victims of exploitation;

19. *Further invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

20. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the rights of trafficked persons and services available to victims of trafficking;

21. *Stresses* the need for systematic data collection and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

23. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations as required, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

24. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, which should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from traffickers, to ensure that the training includes human rights and child- and gender-sensitive perspectives, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

25. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[14] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, based on reports, research and other materials from within the United Nations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as from outside the United Nations, and to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

[14] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 99

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/497)*]

### 59/167. Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, calls for international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[3] the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[4] the Beijing Declaration[5] and Platform for Action[6] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights[7] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8]

*Recalling further* its resolution 57/181 of 18 December 2002 and the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session on 12 March 2004,[9]

---

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2263 (XXII).

[3] See resolution 48/104.

[4] See resolution 1904 (XVIII).

[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 7* (E/2004/27), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2004/11 and 2004/12.

*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Charter, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[10] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[11] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[12] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[13] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[14] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[15]

*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[16]

*Reaffirming further* the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage,

*Stressing* the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the persistence of various forms of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage;

3. *Stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[16] are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women, and reaffirms that violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

---

[10] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[12] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[14] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[15] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[16] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[17] A/59/281.

4. *Also stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

5. *Welcomes* specific legal and comprehensive legislative measures being enacted or contemplated, in particular with regard to various forms of violence against women and girls;

6. *Also welcomes* in this regard the launching of various initiatives, strategies and action plans aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation, protection and welfare, education and research, enhancement of the economic capacity of women and the monitoring of the various forms of violence against women;

7. *Reaffirms* that there is increased awareness of and commitment to preventing and combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, welcomes in this context various legal, administrative and other measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination, and calls for high priority to be attached to the further strengthening of such measures;

8. *Urges* Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and the social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in cooperation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media;

9. *Calls upon* States to encourage and support the active participation of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, and to increase the awareness of men and boys of their responsibility in ending violence against women;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work being done by non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, community-based organizations and individuals, in raising awareness about the economic, social and psychological costs of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard encourages Governments to continue their support for the work of the non-governmental organizations in addressing this issue;

11. *Calls upon* States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action[6] as well as the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

12. *Encourages* States parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the work being done by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for

Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls;

14. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to further devote equal attention to all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, in her work and her reports, within her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 99

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/497)*]

### 59/168. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003,

*Recalling also* the contributions of the four World Conferences on Women, held in Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing, to the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality,

*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, including the twelve critical areas of concern, namely women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child,

*Also reaffirming its commitment* to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and to strengthening a national and international enabling environment in this regard,

---

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

*Welcoming* the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of gender perspectives in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions and summit conferences and their follow-up processes, as well as the review and appraisal by the Economic and Social Council of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[3] the inclusion of the question of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to the gender perspective in the outcomes of its substantive session of 2004,

*Reaffirming* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate on women and peace and security held in the Security Council on 28 October 2004,[4] as well as previous debates,

*Bearing in mind* its relevant resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;[2]

3. *Stresses* the need to undertake further action to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, inter alia, through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

4. *Underlines* the significance of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifth anniversary of the twenty-third special session, and at which the Commission will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the

---

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[4] See S/PV.5066 and S/PV.5066 (Resumption 1).

[5] A/59/214.

outcome of the twenty-third special session and consider the current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women, as well as the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Stresses* the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

6. *Welcomes* the opportunity provided by the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to demonstrate continued and full commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Encourages* participation in the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women at a high political level;

8. *Invites* States and the United Nations system to publicize the forthcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including through consultation with civil society;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

10. *Emphasizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including by ensuring the participation of women on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of social, political and economic activities, and in this regard calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

11. *Emphasizes also* the importance of men and boys taking joint responsibility with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session on 12 March 2004;[6]

12. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Commission on the Status of Women to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

13. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since its fortieth session;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 7* (E/2004/27), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/11.

20 December 1993 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

15. *Recalls* that, in accordance with resolution 57/270 B, the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will continue to be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and also recalls in this regard the request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

16. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

17. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to reiterate its request to the regional commissions that have not yet done so, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

18. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council decision 2004/309 of 23 July 2004, in which the Chairperson of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is requested to submit the outcome of the session, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[7]

19. ***Emphasizes*** **that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;**

[7] See resolution 55/2.

20. *Recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to highlight the contribution of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to integrate gender perspectives in his preparations, including reports, for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to incorporate gender perspectives in their preparations for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration an assessment of the progress made in promoting the goal of gender equality, in particular in relation to the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

24. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[8] to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

25. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;[9]

26. *Recognizes* the important role of law, including legislation, in the promotion of gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, commends the progress made by States in the area of legal reform, and calls upon States to continue their efforts to repeal laws and eradicate practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

27. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[10] in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

28. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate gender perspectives into the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions;

29. *Affirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should continue to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming gender perspectives, including

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[9] Resolution 54/4, annex.

[10] Resolution 55/25, annexes I–III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units, focal points and gender specialists, and with the active support of all United Nations bodies, including by ensuring that all United Nations personnel, especially in the field, receive training on gender perspectives in their work, including gender impact analysis, and that appropriate follow-up training is provided;

30. *Recognizes* the need to further include gender perspectives in the work of its Main Committees and other intergovernmental bodies;

31. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

32. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2[3] and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

33. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session on 14 March 2003;[11]

34. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and urges Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of gender perspectives and the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding activities and to ensure that efforts to strengthen the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations incorporate gender perspectives, with a view to achieving gender equality in constitutional, legislative and judicial reform;

35. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and to disseminate those documents as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

37. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

---

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/44.

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

United Nations A/RES/59/169

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 100

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/498)*]

### 59/169. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly*,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2004/238 of 21 July 2004 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

*Taking note also* of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 23 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 2 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from sixty-six to sixty-eight States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2005.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

[1] E/2004/49.
[2] E/2004/76.

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 100

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/498)*]

### 59/170. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fifth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Recalling also* its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 on implementing actions proposed by the High Commissioner to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underscoring its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-fifth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the adoption of the general conclusion on international protection, the conclusion on international cooperation and burden- and responsibility-sharing in mass influx situations and the conclusion on legal safety issues in the context of voluntary repatriation of refugees,[3] which are aimed

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/59/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III, sects. A–C.

at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection,[4] and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and its 1967 Protocol[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, and recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values that they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-five States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

4. *Notes* that fifty-seven States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that twenty-nine States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Notes also* that 2004 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees and that States convened in Mexico City in November 2004 to commemorate this anniversary, recalls the contribution to refugee protection which regional approaches can make, and encourages States to strengthen further international protection of refugees in the region, in conjunction with relevant international organizations as well as representatives of civil society;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

7. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner and in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, including by holding international consultations aimed at developing a comprehensive plan of action, as appropriate, to respond to a specific mass influx or protracted refugee situation, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

8. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of

---

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

refugees and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

9. *Welcomes* the progress attained so far in regard to the High Commissioner's Convention Plus initiative,[9] including the development of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on the strategic use of resettlement, and encourages the High Commissioner and interested States to strengthen the international protection regime through the development of comprehensive approaches to resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions that give due regard to the importance of both protection and, where possible, refugee self-reliance;

10. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and other displaced persons and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with refugee-hosting countries and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, United Nations agencies and other development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return, and encourages States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and other development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the development and implementation of the 4Rs and of other programming tools to facilitate the transition from relief to development;

11. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

12. *Recognizes* the desirability of countries of origin, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, other States and other concerned actors, as necessary and appropriate, addressing, at an early stage, issues of a legal and administrative nature which are likely to hinder voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, bearing in mind that some legal safety or administrative issues may be addressed only over time and that voluntary repatriation can and does take place without all legal and administrative issues having first been resolved;

13. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

---

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12), chap. III.

14. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, deplores, in particular, the armed attacks that took place in the Gatumba transit centre in Burundi in August 2004, calls upon all States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

15. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute [10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 and 58/270 of 23 December 2003, concerning the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to the annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

16. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 100

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/498)*]

## 59/171. New international humanitarian order

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 57/184 of 18 December 2002 and all previous resolutions concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order[1] as well as all relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, and the annex thereto,

*Reaffirming* the fundamental importance of adherence to and implementation of international humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law as well as internationally accepted norms and principles, in particular the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Recognizing* the importance of action at the national and regional levels and the role that regional organizations can play in certain cases to prevent humanitarian crises, and noting with appreciation the complementary role played in this regard by the United Nations entities, including the agencies, funds and programmes,

*Aware* of the important role that international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector can play, within their respective mandates, in the humanitarian context,

*Concerned* by the increasingly difficult context in which humanitarian assistance takes place in some areas, in particular the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

*Emphasizing* the importance of continued international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected States in dealing with natural disasters and complex emergencies in all their phases,

*Reiterating* that humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way which is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development,

[1] Resolutions 36/136, 37/201, 38/125, 40/126, 42/120, 42/121, 43/129, 43/130, 45/101, 45/102, 47/106, 49/170, 51/74, 53/124 and 55/73.

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General in the humanitarian field, and urges Governments to assist him in promoting a new international humanitarian order that corresponds to new realities and challenges, including the development of an agenda for humanitarian action, in accordance with international law;

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to armed conflicts to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

4. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others concerned to extend cooperation and provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, inter alia, through the relevant United Nations agencies and organizational mechanisms set up to address the assistance and protection needs of victims of complex emergencies as well as the safety and security of United Nations and other humanitarian workers;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to promote strict adherence to refugee law, international humanitarian law, human rights law and internationally accepted norms and principles in situations of humanitarian emergency;

6. *Recognizes* the complementarity between humanitarian assistance and human rights;

7. *Encourages* the international community to improve its response to humanitarian emergencies, including those of a protracted nature, including efforts by donors with regard to policies and practices of good donorship;

8. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector to assist and support national and international efforts to respond to humanitarian challenges and alleviate human suffering;

9. *Recognizes* the important need to address more effectively the transition from relief to development, and welcomes in this regard the request made by the Economic and Social Council to the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the issue for further consideration by the Council and the General Assembly;

10. *Invites* Member States, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the capacities of regional and subregional organizations, where applicable, in the context of the response to humanitarian crises;

---

[2] A/59/554.

11. *Invites* Member States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, relevant entities of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, to reinforce activities and cooperation so as to continue to develop an agenda for humanitarian action;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to support the process of developing an agenda for humanitarian action and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the overall progress made.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 February 2005

**Fifty-ninth session**
Agenda item 100

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/498)*]

### 59/172. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 58/149 of 22 December 2003,

*Recalling also* the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

*Reaffirming* that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows, and calls upon the international community, including States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

3. *Welcomes* decision EX/CL/Dec.127 (V) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/59/317.
[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12).

African Union at its fifth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 30 June to 3 July 2004;

4. *Takes note* of the holding of the conference organized by the African Parliamentary Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on "Refugees in Africa: the challenges of protection and solutions" at Cotonou, Benin, from 1 to 3 June 2004;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner since assuming office in January 2001, and commends the Office of the High Commissioner for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in conjunction with relevant agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, within their respective mandates, in the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the appointment by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of its Special Rapporteur on refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict, and in this regard takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security submitted to and discussed by the Security Council;[7]

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

9. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and the spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the appointment by the African Union of its Special Representative on the protection of civilians in armed conflict;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

11. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of States to provide assistance to and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and calls

[7] S/2004/814.

upon the international community, in the context of burden- and responsibility-sharing, to increase its material, financial and technical assistance in countries affected by refugees, returnees and displaced persons, to address simultaneously the inadequacies of existing assistance arrangements and to support initiatives in this regard;

12. *Reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character;

13. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, deplores, in particular, the armed attacks that took place in the Gatumba transit centre in Burundi in August 2004, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue these efforts in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

14. *Deplores* the deaths, injuries and other forms of violence sustained by staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure their safety and security, calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes, and calls upon organizations and aid workers to abide by the national laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate;

15. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system, and welcomes in this regard the High Commissioner joining the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in 2004 as a co-sponsor;

16. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, and welcomes in this regard the conclusion on international cooperation and burden- and responsibility-sharing in mass influx situations adopted

by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fifth session;[8]

17. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of thousands of refugees to their countries of origin, and welcomes in this regard the conclusion on legal safety issues in the context of voluntary repatriation of refugees adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-fifth session;[9]

19. *Reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, and recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity;

20. *Welcomes* the development by the High Commissioner, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, of the framework for durable solutions, aimed at promoting lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

21. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, and in this regard notes with interest the development of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on the strategic use of resettlement in the context of the High Commissioner's Convention Plus initiative;[10]

22. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

23. *Also calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially

---

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/59/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

[9] Ibid., sect. C.

[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12* (A/59/12), chap. III, para. 23.

increased needs of programmes in Africa, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[11] and urges the international community, led by relevant United Nations organizations, to contribute generously to national projects and programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of internally displaced persons;

26. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2005.

*74th plenary meeting*
*20 December 2004*

[11] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.